

## Message Text

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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SPAIN

A. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS COMPLICATE ELECTION TIMING

MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY UNDER SECRETARY FOR PLANNING  
CALLE INSISTED TO EMBASSY MADRID DECEMBER 10 THAT ELECTIONS  
WILL BE HELD MARCH 21. IN CALLE'S VIEW:

--DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WILL REQUIRE  
STABILIZATION MEASURES BEFORE JUNE, AND THE PRESENT  
GOVERNMENT FEELS IT LACKS BOTH THE MANDATE AND THE  
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POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE NECESSARY SACRIFICES.

--VOTERS WILL FAVOR MODERATE, CENTRIST AND CENTER-  
RIGHT PARTIES.

--IF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE NOT DEALT WITH EFFECTIVELY,

THE RESULTANT POLITICAL POLARIZATION AND RADICALIZATION WILL CAUSE SEVERE PROBLEMS IN THE ELECTIONS FOUR YEARS HENCE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ABSTAIN FROM FURTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN OIL PRICES MAY PROVIDE A CONVENIENT EXCUSE FOR EARLY ACTION. THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT ALSO TAKE RIGOROUS ECONOMIC STEPS AND MOVE THE ELECTIONS TO APRIL OR MAY IF THE ECONOMY DETERIORATES MORE RAPIDLY THAN ANTICIPATED. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 9418, 12/14.)

B. THE SOVIET VIEW: FULL TIES WITHOUT PCE  
LEGALIZATION?

EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT THE CPSU HAS APPARENTLY BECOME DISENCHANTED WITH SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER CARRILLO AND IS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO DUMP HIM. A SPANISH TRADE MISSION SOURCE, CITING CONTACTS WITH THE MOSCOW-BASED SPANISH CIVIL WAR REFUGEE COMMUNITY, SAID THE SOVIETS, INTENT ON STRENGTHENING THEIR POSITION WITHIN THE SPANISH PARTY, LEAN TOWARD WORKER COMMISSION CHIEF MARCELINO CAMACHO AS CARRILLO'S REPLACEMENT.

MEANWHILE, SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE INTIMATED TO TRADE MISSION OFFICERS THAT THE USSR DOES NOT NECESSARILY LINK RESUMPTION OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN TO THE LEGALIZATION OF THE PCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 19497 (LIMDIS), 12/14.)

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## 2. THE NINE LIVES OF HAFIZ ASAD

EMBASSY DAMASCUS REPORTS THAT A COUP AGAINST ASAD PLANNED BY A GROUP OF ALAWITE MILITARY OFFICERS FAILED IN EARLY DECEMBER BECAUSE WORD LEAKED TO AUTHORITIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS LATEST MANIFESTATION OF DISCONTENT SUGGESTS ASAD'S SUCCESSES IN LEBANON AND EGYPT HAVE NOT ENDED DOMESTIC CHALLENGES TO HIS POSITION. DISCOVERY OF THE CONSPIRACY DEMONSTRATES ASAD'S ABILITY TO THWART HIS OPPOSITION, BUT SHOWS HE MUST MEND POLITICAL FENCES WITH FELLOW ALAWITES. (SECRET) DAMASCUS 8542, 12/14.)

## 3. BANGLADESH: MILD OPTIMISM ON FARAKKA

AMBASSADOR MASTERS REPORTS THAT THE BANGLADESHI GOVERNMENT WAS MILDLY ENCOURAGED BY RECENT TALKS WITH INDIA ON FARAK-

KA. FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT

"".

--BANGLADESH WANTS TO RETURN TO THE FORMULA FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION USED IN THE 1975 INTERIM AGREEMENT, BUT WOULD ACCEPT SOMEWHAT LESS.

--THE INDIANS WANT A FIFTY-FIFTY SPLIT AT FARAKKA.

--TO IMPROVE CHANCES FOR A SETTLEMENT, DACCA IS TRYING TO RESTRAIN LOCAL EMOTIONALISM ON THE ISSUE. (SECRET) DACCA 6283 (LIMDIS), 12/14.)

#### 4. KHAMA COMMENTS ON RHODESIA

IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR NORLAND DECEMBER 14, BOTS-  
WANA'S PRESIDENT KHAMA VOLUNTEERED THAT THE "FAULT IS NOT  
ALL ON THE SMITH SIDE" FOR SLOW PROGRESS AT GENEVA. HOW-  
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EVER, KHAMA CONDEMNED SMITH FOR REJECTING THE UK OFFER OF A  
"HIGH COMMISSIONER" TYPE ROLE DURING THE TRANSITION, COM-  
MENTING THAT THIS SEEMED THE ONE COMPROMISE "ACCEPTABLE TO  
MOST OF US." HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GROWING NUMBER OF BOR-  
DER INCURSIONS, KIDNAPPINGS, AND MURDERS BY RHODESIAN  
SECURITY AUTHORITIES WAS PUSHING HIS GOVERNMENT TO THE  
LIMIT OF ITS PATIENCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) GABORONE 2306,  
12/15.) KISSINGER

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